

NSC BRIEFING

1 July 1954

Background - Nationalist Blockade

Nationalists first announced "port closure" June 1949 (to prevent shipping to major coast ports). This decree technically still in force.

- A. By August 1953, Nationalist blockade activities reached level which caused UK institute regular naval patrol protect British vessels in Formosan straits.
- B. Seizure Polish tanker PRACA (October 1953) was first Nationalist interception east of Formosa, also first move against Bloc vessel. Extending range farther, Nationalists (13 May 1954) seized Polish freighter GOTTWALD some 400 miles east Formosa. This was latest seizure until TUAPSE incident.

**SECRET**

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Background - Crew of Tuapse -

49 in crew, including one woman (stewardess).

Chi Nats originally confined all of crew, except captain and first officer, in two rooms on ship. Crew at first belligerent (frightened the Nationalists) and went on hunger strike.

On pretext of medical examination, crew taken ashore on 28 June and put in three guest houses. Two translators assigned to each house with orders to be "friendly." Hunger strike stopped.

Captain and first officer (the chief trouble-maker) isolated from others.

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Cargo Removal was to be finished by 28 June.

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Background. A Soviet radio broadcast of 29 June charged "that American military aircraft have systematically been flying over merchant ships sailing in the waters of the Far East, particularly in the area of Formosa."

The Soviets, citing five specific instances, charged that this was U. S. reconnaissance operations against the movement of Soviet merchant ships.

Moscow said that such action "by American aircraft represent an arbitrary violation of freedom of the high seas and show a complete disregard by U. S. military authorities of international law."